

While Lillian has remained active throughout her life pursuing a range of pursuits and challenges, early in life, she did not have the benefit of much formal education. Nonetheless, at the age of fifty, she returned to High School to take courses in typing and drivers' education, another testament to her strength.

Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Munising community, Mrs. Revord's friends and her family will gather in the basement of the local Methodist Church, a fitting location for a woman who has made faith such a cornerstone of her life. Together, they will congratulate her on her many accomplishments over her many years. As Mrs. Revord's 100th birthday is celebrated, I would ask that you join me in congratulating her and in wishing Mrs. Lillian Revord, her children, Orville, Jr., Raoul, and Joanne and her many grandchildren all the best.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a piece of legislation to enhance two, critical Small Business Administration, SBA, Entrepreneurial Development programs, Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, and the Service Corps for Retired Executives, SCORE.

Serving as the Representative in a District that has been historically driven economically by vibrant local, small businesses, I greatly appreciate and support the entrepreneurial development assistance that the SBA provides.

We know that entrepreneurial development assistance programs work. Businesses who receive SBA entrepreneurial assistance are twice as likely to succeed. In addition, every Federal dollar spent on entrepreneurial development generates seven dollars in increased tax revenue.

In the past three years, due to changes in our ever-changing globalizing economy, my District has lost 607 small businesses, and 1 out of 5 manufacturing establishments. This is a trend that I am committed to reversing through fostering entrepreneurial development and creating the right set of conditions to help businesses flourish, stay and be attracted to in my District, and I believe that supporting effective small business entrepreneurial development programs is a key part of that strategy.

In 1980, Congress established the SBDC program to foster economic development by providing management, technical and research assistance to current and prospective small businesses. As you know, SBDCs provide services which include, but are not limited to, assisting small businesses with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems and feasibility studies.

SBDCs serve Americans with the desire to start their own venture, but lack the technical expertise associated with starting and running a successful business, and in the past few decades, have provided assistance to millions of entrepreneurs across the United States.

The SBDC program also represents the effective and efficient use of allocated Federal

monies through public/private collaboration to provide necessary technical and mentoring assistance. To that end, SBDCs are funded by matching monies by state legislatures, foundations, State and local chambers of commerce, public and private universities, vocational and technical schools, and community colleges. In fact, sponsors' contributions have been increasingly exceeding the minimum 50 percent matching share, signifying greater participation among such groups and institutions.

This is why I feel especially fortunate to have several Small Business Development Sub-Centers located at local universities, such as Widener University, Kutztown University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton, which provides critical business resources and technical assistance to small businesses in and around my District.

I would like to stress that the core SBDC program has been extremely effective, but there are certain operational improvements that can be implemented to increase flexibility of Small Business Development Centers to better support and serve our local small businesses and our aspiring entrepreneurs.

To that end, changes proposed in this legislation will ensure the quality of grant recipients to host SBDCs; help SBDCs maintain their autonomy from undue SBA interference; protect the confidentiality of SBDC clients; ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent as efficiently as possible by not using SBDC funds except for the sole purpose of business development; and allowing exemptions to the current cap on non-matching portability grants in the event of Federally-designated natural or human-caused disasters.

In addition to these operation changes, it is important to strengthen the SBDC core program, which successfully navigates entrepreneurs in managing their business, by establishing specific grant programs that will allow SBDCs to tailor their services to meet the needs of particular business constituencies.

For instance, the Capital Access Initiative would establish grants to assist entrepreneurs in processing loan applications and obtaining private equity. An Innovation and Competitiveness Initiative would establish grants to allow SBDCs to become "Technology Centers," to help market technologies and advanced projects to manufacturers. A Disaster Recovery Program would establish grants to allow SBDCs to assist and coordinate the Federal response for small business disaster victims.

The Older Entrepreneurial Assistance program will target older Americans interested in transitioning to become business owners, while the Small Business Sustainability Initiative will promote the development and implementation of energy efficient and clean energy improvements and technology. A National Regulatory Assistance Initiative will provide assistance to small businesses to comply with Federal regulatory requirements, and an Affordable Health Care Initiative, will help small business owners provide affordable health care insurance options to their employees.

As I also mentioned, a second program which this legislation will address is SCORE, which provides entrepreneurs with free counseling assistance by former executives. SCORE provides a valuable service to small businesses, and I believe it will be even stronger with a provision to actively recruit volunteer mentors who will greater reflect the so-

cial and economic diversity of those who utilize SBA services, such as women and under-represented minorities.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak this morning about this important bill, which will greatly enhance the business development resources available to America's small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

THAILAND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, on September 19, 2006, the Thai military and police overthrew the elected government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. At the time, the popularly-elected premier was in New York City for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

General Boonyaratkalin, leader of the military coup, suspended the constitution and dissolved the Cabinet, both houses of Parliament, and the Constitutional Court.

The Department of State immediately issued a statement saying, "There's no justification for a military coup in Thailand or in anyplace else . . . we certainly are extremely disappointed by this action. It's a step backward for democracy in Thailand."

Following the military coup, the United States suspended \$24 million in bilateral assistance to the Thai government.

Now eight months after the military coup, despite promises by the military leaders to the contrary, Thailand still has not drafted a permanent constitution, held a referendum, or called for elections.

In addition, Thailand seized American patents in clear violation of international law.

On December 30, 2003, the United States Government designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally. This status gives Thailand a range of benefits, preferred American lending, participation in military exercises and preferential bidding on Department of Defense contracts.

A military dictatorship that disposes an elected government and then seizes American intellectual property should not be considered a major non-NATO ally.

Therefore, today I am introducing the Thailand Democracy Act of 2007 to push Thailand's military government to hold democratic elections.

Under this legislation, the President is required to terminate Thailand's status as a major non-NATO ally until he can certify to the Congress that democracy has been restored to the Thai people. I urge my colleagues to condemn the continued military rule of Thailand and support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING CLYDE TIDWELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in this day and age, it is very unusual for a person to work in a company for 40 or 50 years.

For someone to work for the same company for 66 years is truly incredible.

One of my constituents, Clyde Tidwell, recently retired from the Alcoa Company, where he worked since May 16, 1941.

I want to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

I also want to salute him for his contributions to our Country and its economy.

This Nation is a better place because of Clyde Tidwell, who I believe can accurately be called a great American.

I would like to include the following article about Mr. Tidwell that ran in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on May 16, 2007 and call it to the attention of my colleagues and the other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, May 16, 2007]

IT'S TIGER'S TURN: AFTER 66 YEARS AT ALCOA, TIDWELL'S JOB IS DONE
(By Michael Silence)

Clyde "Tiger" Tidwell today hangs up the hard hat after working 66 years at Alcoa Tennessee.

At 87, and with his son having retired three years ago, Tidwell figures it's time to put away the safety goggles and the earplugs.

When he began May 16, 1941, he made 55 cents an hour, and a meal cost 25 cents. Tidwell was 21.

He felt fortunate because the week he started, pay increased by 10 cents an hour.

"That was pretty good" for that time, the Blount County resident said Tuesday.

Tidwell is believed to be Alcoa Inc.'s longest active employee. The company is hosting a reception for him today.

While he describes himself as timid, Tidwell said he appreciates the gesture and he will have family and friends at the reception.

He took a break from work in 1944 to serve as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne in World War II.

The overhead crane operator and machinist attributes his longevity to a good job and working with good people.

"I enjoyed the work and the people," he said in an interview at Alcoa's North Plant.

Pittsburg-based Alcoa Inc.'s Blount County operation, which produces aluminum used for beverage cans, and its primary metals and materials management office in Knoxville employ about 1,850 workers.

Tidwell said the biggest change at Alcoa during his years with the company were the safety measures. When he started in 1941, the plant didn't have such things as safety belts and a sprinkler system, which it now does.

And, he added, there's one building in the factory now that if a gate is opened the mill shuts down.

Tidwell served in the Army several months in 1944. During that time his daughter, Judy Lynn Carter of Knoxville, was born while he was at sea headed to Europe. It was seven months before he learned of her birth.

Tidwell said during the 66 years he's worked for Alcoa there have been some "not too rosy" events. Two thirds of the people he started work with have died.

Tidwell himself has had two heart surgeries, but on Monday, he visited the doctor and got "a clean bill of health."

Now that he has some time on his hands, Tidwell said he might get back into some farming. He used to raise tobacco but has no crops now.

He never thought of retirement, but Alcoa came along with an attractive incentive plan, so he took it.

And he said it's probably time to retire. His son, Clyde Eugene Tidwell, retired from TVA three years ago.

As much as their health allows, Tidwell and his wife, Floy, want to do some traveling and spend some time at their boathouse on Fort Loudon Lake.

"We haven't loafed around a lot," he said of those years.

And he added, "Life has been good to me."

Looking back—Other events of 1941, the year Clyde "Tiger" Tidwell started working for Alcoa Inc.: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; Cheerios introduced by General Mills as Cheerios; Orson Welles' film Citizen Kane premieres; Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak; and Joan Baez and Vice President Dick Cheney were born.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairman, yesterday, as part of the Defense Authorization bill, we voted on an amendment offered by Mr. DEFazio of Oregon that would, with limited exceptions, require the President to obtain congressional authorization before taking military

action against Iran. I want to make something crystal clear: I fully support the intent of the amendment. However, I opposed the DeFazio Amendment for three reasons.

First by singling out Iran, the amendment created a troubling implication that the President could take military action against other countries without congressional authorization. For example, there have been reports that the Bush Administration has considered military action against Syria. The DeFazio Amendment did not mention Syria. Does the omission of Syria, or any other country, give the President a green light to attack other nations without congressional authorization? Essentially, the DeFazio Amendment re-stated what I believe to be the powers of the Congress under the U.S. Constitution and statutory law. The Executive Branch must respect those powers. It establishes a bad precedent for the Congress to pass a DeFazio type amendment every time it is concerned the Executive Branch might take military action against a particular country in violation of the Constitution and statutory law. That would send the wrong message that Congress doesn't care whether the Executive abides by the Constitution unless the Congress passes a similar amendment in every instance.

Second, it is difficult to predict every possible contingency when formulating legislation regarding the use of military force. If, for example, the DeFazio Amendment became the law of the land, and American civilians were taken hostage in Iran, the President would be prohibited from ordering a military rescue operation unless the Congress first passed a resolution. Certainly, that was not the intent of Mr. DEFazio's amendment, but that is its effect.

Finally, the DeFazio Amendment does not address the problem that led to the bad decision to go to war in Iraq. Afterall, President Bush asked Congress to authorize the use of force against Iraq. The problem was that Congress mistakenly passed a resolution giving the President that authority.

In conclusion, while I support the spirit and intent of this amendment, I think it establishes an unwise precedent, fails to consider all the contingencies that might lead to the justifiable use of force, and fails to address the issue that led to the war in Iraq.